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Mr. A. Ramakrishna Reddi:—" May I know, Sir, what the special reasons are for which the Government may postpone the introduction of the new settlement rates? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" I am afraid, Sir, I cannot say that now."

Mr. A. Ramakrishna Reddi:—" The answer to clause (*b*) says: 'the new settlement rates will ordinarily be brought into force at the beginning of the new settlement period unless for special reasons the Government postpone their immediate introduction.' I want to know the nature of the special reasons for which the Government may postpone the introduction."

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—"There is generally no question of postponement, unless any special circumstances require a consideration of the question of their immediate introduction."

Mr. A. Ramakrishna Reddi:—" If, Sir, the new settlement rates are in excess of the present rates, will not the Government consider that as a special reason for postponing the introduction of the settlement rates in view of the economic depression? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" Certainly not, Sir."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—" It is said in the answer that legislation was contemplated to give effect to the recommendation of the Committee. May I take it, Sir, that the idea of the Government was really to fix the assessment at 25 per cent of the annual value? "

The Hon. Sir Archibald Campbell:—" May I point out, Sir, that this question of the hon. Member refers to question No. 792? We are now dealing with question No. 793."

## Prisons and Prisoners

*Alleged hunger-strike of Dr. K. V. Swami, a prisoner confined in the Central Jail at Salem.*

* 794 *Q.*—Mr. K. A. Nachiappa Gounder: Will the Hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that one Dr. K. V. Swami who is now undergoing imprisonment in Salem Jail is going on hunger-strike;

(*b*) what the reasons are therefor;

(*c*) when and for what offences he was committed to prison and by whom he was sentenced to undergo imprisonment and to what period;

(*d*) in which jail or jails he was so far kept and what the period of his stay in each is;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that he was allowed wheat diet in other jails; and

(*f*) whether it is a fact that he was refused that kind of diet in Salem jail, and, if so, what the reasons are therefor?

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*A.*—(*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) & (*d*) Statements are appended.[a]

(*e*) Not in all jails. He was given rice diet in the Penitentiary, Madras, and in the Central Jail, Trichinopoly.

(*f*) He was given wheat diet in the Salem jail till 23rd February 1934 on the mistaken assumption that the wheat diet was sanctioned by competent authority. Wheat cannot be given in lieu of rice except on medical grounds which do not exist in the case of this convict. The convict is being given rice for one month.

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" May I know, Sir, whether medical advice was taken with regard to the nature of the diet?"

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" No, there was no need to do so."

Mr. K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDER:—" Was he taking wheat diet till the last date? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The competent authority, i.e., the Court, has ordered only rice diet for him."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" In the answer to clause (*a*), the Government say that the gentleman is not now on hunger-strike. May I know whether he went on hunger-strike at any time? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" No, he refused one meal on a certain day."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether he has been classified in any one of the three classes; if so, in what class? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" Notice."

Mr. P. V. KRISHNAYYA CHOUDARI:—" May I know, Sir, whether he has increased in weight since taking rice diet? "

(No reply).

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—" May I know whether the Hon. the Law Member is aware that cases of this nature are increasing so far as the Salem Jail is concerned? "

The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—" The cases are not increasing."

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on page 432 infra.